(a) whether it is proposed to link Buddhist culture and Buddhist links between Orissa and Sri Lanka with the help of Mahabodhi Society of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to find a common platform for all Buddhist traditions in imparting the teaching of Buddha for global peace and applying the Buddhist value of love, compassion and interdependence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) No such specific proposal is under consideration.

Nomination as World Heritage site

350. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of heritage sites being proposed for nomination as World Heritage site during 2008 and 2009, category-wise;

(b) whether the Majuli Island is being considered for renomination under cultural landscape category of World Heritage site during the coming nomination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Majuli Island, Assam and Kalka-Shimla Railway were considered by UNESCO for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2008, based on nomination dossiers sent earlier, under the "cultural landscape", and 'cultural heritage' categories respectively. While Kalka-Shimla Railway has been inscribed, a decision on Majuli Island was deferred.

Nominations to be made in 2009 are under consideration.

(b) to (d) While deferring a decision on Majuli Island, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO recommended the following actions:-

(i) Assemble a complete inventory of the 31 surviving Sattras on the island as a preliminary to considering which Sattras might have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and be nominated as the property;

(ii) Allow on ICOMOS evaluation mission to visit the property to consider the extent and scope of the Sattras;

(iii) Undertake an appraisal of the overall river basin in which Majuli lies and the potential impact of upstream development, deforestation and the building of dams, in order to ascertain whether managed retreat is the only realistic approach to the flooding and erosion processes.

A fresh nomination dossier is required to be prepared by an inter-disciplinary team taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. At this stage, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for renominating Majuli Island

Protected monuments

351. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) permits use of protected monuments for the conduct of certain events on payment of charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the nature of events permitted and the charges fixed for it;

(c) whether the ASI had given such permission in past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India permits usage of specific protected areas of some selected centrally protected monuments/sites in the country for holding cultural events of high standard, preferably classical music, dance and drama on payment basis. The details of payment charged for their usage and the list of monuments/sites where such cultural events could be permitted under the guidelines issued by the Archaeological Survey of India is given in Statement-I (*See* below). The details of holding cultural events at centrally protected monuments during the last three years is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

The Guidelines issued by the Archaeological Survey of India alongwith list of centrally protected monuments/sites where cultural events could be permitted

1. As a matter of course, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will not like to permit the use of monuments and land attached to such monuments for holding functions/events. The circles may, however, permit such use only as an exception if the DG, ASI/SA, circle is fully satisfied that the function/event is unlikely to cause any damage, whatsoever, to the monument, its land and other built structures standing thereon.

2. The circles would accord permission in only those monuments, which are identified for holding cultural events. They will also delineate the area/parts of the monument where such events can be held.

3. The DG, ASI/SA, circle may refuse permission to hold functions in the identified monuments/sites in case ASI had undertaken recent renovation/beautification works and the holding of such event may interfere with the work / damage the renovations.

4. If a monument is not listed for allowing the holding of cultural, the DG, ASI may grant such permissions after calling for a report from the concerned SA. The DG, ASI however reserves the right to disallow any such request. His decision will be final.